



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
500 Mill Road
Absecon, New Jersey 08201

Carie A. Crone, RMC
Municipal Clerk

CITY COUNCIL

JULY 2, 2020

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THIS MEETING WAS HELD AS A ZOOM MEETING.

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Keith Bennett at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Butch Burroughs, Sandy Cain, Caleb Cavileer, Betty Howell, Steve Light, Frank Phillips, Keith Bennett

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Horton, Fred Scerni, Jessica Thompson, Carie Crone, Ed Dennis

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON THE SUNSHINE LAW

NOTIFICATION THAT THIS MEETING IS ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

79 Increasing the Bid Threshold pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3 and 18A:18A-3
Jessica – explained this is State regulated and allows the amount we are able to spend without going out to bid. It's been changed to \$44,000 from \$40,000.

80 Approving the insertion of a Special Item of Revenue into the 2020
Municipal Budget to allow for the receipt of \$18,297.80 from the State of
New Jersey Clean Communities.
Jessica – this is a grant we receive each year and we are adding into our budget as a revenue and an expense. It's used for some salaries, equipment and supplies that are used. The amount is less than last year and it's based on the amount of recycling we have.

81 Authorizing the execution of a contract renewing membership in the Atlantic
County Joint Insurance Fund.

Jessica – this is our contract renewal for our insurance policy.

PUBLIC PORTION (Agenda Items only)

Motion to open to the public – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Cain

All were in favor. No comments.

Motion to close public – Councilman Cavileer – second – Councilman Burroughs

All were in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

Keith read the Consent Agenda Resolutions again.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda – Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Howell

ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Light, yes; Phillips, yes;

Bennett, yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST – \$514,335.71

Motion to approve – Councilman Burroughs – second – Councilman Cavileer

ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Light, yes; Phillips, yes; Bennett, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 6/18/2020

Motion to approve – Councilman Light - second – Councilwoman Cain

ROLL CALL: Burroughs, yes; Cain, yes; Cavileer, yes; Howell, yes; Light, yes; Phillips, abstain; Bennett, yes

REPORTS

Jessica – we received our bond rating and we have been upgraded from an A1 to an AA3 rating. This rating means high quality with low risk and is a good thing for us. This should increase our likelihood of a better interest rate on July 14th when we have the electronic bond sale. The audit process was a little delayed this year and we did a lot of thing electronically, but they weren't able to come out. They did come for a few days last week and we will just be waiting to hear back with that. Shredding will be October 10th from 9 to 1. The summer concerts will begin on July 12th and it will be posted on our website and ABTV. Playgrounds were opened today per the Governor's orders.

Caleb – mentioned that everyone should still follow the guidelines for groups when attending the concerts. There should be social distancing and masks worn. We want to be able to have all 7 weeks in the park.

Mayor – thanked Chief Laughlin, his officers and dispatch and neighboring police officers for formulating and implementing a plan that addressed the safety of our residents and the protesters last Friday afternoon. Thanked the Chief for allowing her and Betty to attend the briefing on Friday. There was a drive by parade at Preferred Care to honor the health care workers and the volunteer veterans who have been working side by side to make sure our senior residents' needs were being met. The 9 volunteers came from all over the country to assist when many workers were sick or quarantined. They were here for two months and left on June 30th. She asked everyone to continue to wear masks and distance themselves. We want the curve to stay flat, so the economy can come back. Wished everyone a happy and safe 4th of July.

Eddie – gave a few updates on the road program. The 2019 is completed and the bid for the 2020 program, which will only be Bayview Drive will go out next week. The gas company did begin their work in town. If anyone sees anything, please reach out to him or his office. They've been cooperative and their project will continue for some time. We do have two projects out to bid now. One for the Pitney Road and Connecticut sidewalk job and we now have five bidders for it, which will be opened on July 9th. The other one is the bulkhead behind City Hall and the bids will be opened on July 15th. We might be awarding it at the July 16th meeting. The firehouse is moving along. The redeveloper does attend some of our meetings, so we have good communication and everything is moving the way it should.

Parks & Playgrounds – Light – we replaced some of the groups for the concerts but that's it.

Economic Development – Howell – we understand how our local eateries are upset about the State pulling back the decision for inside dining, so she asked residents to keep supporting them. The creek fest committee met again and we are continuing to move forward with it, knowing there could be a possibility that it won't. She thanked the police and fire departments for their work and the extra work they've taken on with the parades, as well as the ambulance squad.

Finance – Cavileer – was thankful again for the bond rating we received. Making the final decision on the creek fest is going to be hard since we had such a big crowd last time. We do have a deposit in with the band "Don't Call me Francis" and they are working with us if we need to postpone it and will just change the date. We won't need to refund their money.

Public Works - Burroughs – he spoke to Lloyd today and he opened up the playgrounds

Community Affairs – Cain – the best flower pot in town is still taking place on 7/29. She commended our police and fire departments. She wished everyone a Happy 4th of July.

Public Safety – Phillips – we touched on everything earlier

Keith – the police are in everyone's cross hairs right now and he is grateful that we have a police department here that is professional. He thanked them, the fire department and the EMS personnel.

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to the public was made by Councilman Light – second – Councilwoman Howell
All were in favor.

Teresa Hudson – 4 Stone Circle - thanked Council for their service to our city. She spoke about an Air BNB that has opened next door to her. There was no notice and one day strangers just appeared. It was a party atmosphere that lasted past two in the morning. The registration of the vehicles were noted from Florida and currently there are 6 vehicles parked all over and it's a 3 bedroom home. We still have cases going up. She mentioned Ordinance 59-2020 that the city passed about the transient rentals. She wanted to know where we stand after what the Governor has even passed.

Chief Laughlin – he whole heartedly agrees with her, but unfortunately many residents contact the Mayor and I on our office phones upset with what is going on. The problem is he can't address those calls. We are here to protect and serve the community, but it most go through our dispatch center. With the Air BnB ordinance, it wasn't finished due to the virus, but once finished, residents who experience these problems, should contact us.

Motion to enter closed session – Councilman Light – second – Councilman Burroughs
All were in favor.

Public were placed in a waiting room and as soon as we come out you will be brought back in.

Fred – we are out of closed session and Council received its report dealing with the construction of the firehouse. The engineer and his office were given instruction to work on these issues and bring them back at the next meeting. It is anticipated that there will be certain contractual issues presented and at that time discussed and content made public.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn – Councilman Cavileer – second – Councilwoman Cain
All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Carie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 7-16-2020